



Badger Firefighters Association

President Eric Backhaus

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TO: Committee on Public Health and Public Safety

DATE: 7 February 2012

REF: AB-478

As President of the Badger Firefighters Association, our association urges your committee's approval of AB-478.

Representing 34 fire departments, north of Milwaukee, we believe that having Wisconsin "Fire Prevention Week" [FPW] coincide with National Fire Prevention Association's week of observance [which is the same week set aside by federal law] will allow our state departments to take advantage of the promotional material made available. At the present time the state of Wisconsin observes Fire Prevention Week during the week in October which contains the 8th day of the month. Whereas the national week of observation and promotion is the week including the 9th day of October we urge to observe the same week. This will allow our departments to use educational and promotion material made to promote fire safety uniformly.

Another change this bill will create is moving Wisconsin Firefighters Memorial Day from the Saturday leading into Fire Prevention Week to the Saturday ending FPW. This change will eliminate the conflict that occurs with the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. These coinciding dates have been very stressful to the families and fire departments that have suffered and Line Of Duty Death [LODD].

We trust that you will appreciate the importance of this bill, AB-478. We ask you to vote in favor of this bill and allow it to be acted on at the floor of the legislature.

Respectfully,

Eric Backhaus

Eric Backhaus

President.



WISCONSIN STATE
FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

PO BOX 248
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54495
WWW.WSFM.ORG

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The Wisconsin State Firefighters Memorial would appreciate this committee's positive support for AB-478.

This bill will allow setting aside the Wisconsin Firefighters Memorial Day from the Saturday leading into Fire Prevention Week to the Saturday ending FPW. This change will eliminate the conflict that occurs with the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. These coinciding dates have been very stressful to the families and fire departments that have suffered and Line Of Duty Death [LODD]. It is important for the families and fire departments that have suffered the loss of a loved one and/or brother/sister in the fire service, to mourn and grieve with the support of many. Both of these venues are important the year of the loss as well as years following. Therefore we ask for your support to make this change.

At present Wisconsin "Fire Prevention Week" [FPW] doesn't coincide with National Fire Prevention Association's week of observance [which is the same week set aside by federal law]. This legislation will allow our state departments to take advantage of the promotional material made available. At the present time the state of Wisconsin observes Fire Prevention Week during the week in October which contains the 8th day of the month. Whereas the national week of observation and promotion is the week including the 9th day of October we urge to observe the same week. It is important for our departments to use educational and promotion material made to promote fire safety uniformly.

We appreciate your support of this importance of this bill, AB-478, which has NO monetary impact on the state. We ask you to vote in favor of this bill and allow it to be acted on at the floor of the legislature.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. Naab".

Ronald J. Naab

Member of the Board of Directors